DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 243 582 PS 014 270

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TITLE Fun for One: Facilitating Solitary Play.
INSTITUTION Fairfax County Office for Children, Va.
PUB DATE Aug 81
NOTE 34p.; Prepared through a grant from the Wellesley School-Age Child Care Demonstration Project.
PUB TYPE Guides - General (050)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Children; Dramatic Play; *Educational Games; Handicrafts; Language Arts; *Learning Activities; Music Activities; School Age Day Care; Science Activities
IDENTIFIERS *Solitary Play

ABSTRACT

This guide provides a series of activities adapted for children's solitary play. Eight different categories are presented: construction, dramatic play, arts and crafts, science, small muscle/indoor games, music and movement, language, and food-related experiences. Each activity is organized according to materials, kit construction, and kit utilization. Suggested grade levels are noted for each activity. Appended are ideas for making kit containers, ideas for creating private spaces to facilitate solitary play, a kit evaluation form, and a list of commercial toys and games. (BJD)

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FAIRFAX COUNTY OFFICE FOR CHILDREN
SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE
Fairfax, Virginia

FUN FOR ONE
Facilitating Solitary Play

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August 1981

PS 014270

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A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ADAPTED FOR SOLITARY PLAY IN EIGHT DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

CONSTRUCTION

Take-Apart Kit (K-6)

Materials:	Tool box, screwdrivers, pliers, Phillips screwdriver set, any discarded small appliances such as clocks, watches, radios, telephones, etc. (Remove all plugs and wires.)
Kit Construction:	Package all materials, if possible, in the tool box. No directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	Some previous demonstration in the use of tools may be required for younger children.

Paper Beam Building (K-6)

Materials:	Lots of newspapers, masking tape, scissors.
Kit Construction:	Package materials in a container. Tape the following directions on the inside of the container. "Roll three sheets of newspaper tightly and tape. Make several of these newspaper beams. Can you tape the beams together to make squares, shapes or buildings?" Illustrate these directions with simple diagrams for the younger children.
Kit Utilization:	Children can look at or read directions and construct as they wish.

Wood Scrap Structures (K-6)

Materials:	Soft wood scraps in different shapes and sizes, sandpaper, glue, magic markers or paint.
Kit Construction:	Package in container of choice. No directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	Children may assemble and decorate structures.

CONSTRUCTION (cont'd)

Sawdust Sculpture (K-6)

Materials: Sawdust, pre-mixed wheat paste, brushes, tempera paint, wax paper, mixing bowl.

Kit Construction: Sawdust and pre-mixed wheat paste can be packaged in jars or coffee cans. Place all materials in a container. Include the following directions in the kit: "Mix sawdust and wheat paste together in a bowl until it feels like clay. Mold with your hands into any shape you want. Let your shape dry and paint with tempera." Illustrate these directions with simple diagrams for the younger children.

Kit Utilization: The younger children may simply want to manipulate material. No specific measurements are given so the child will experiment.

Q-Tip Construction (K-6)

Materials: Q-tips, glue, posterboard squares, scissors.

Kit Construction: Package all materials in container of choice. Glue the ends of four Q-tips together to form a flat square. This will provide one example of a possible construction. Glue Q-tips side by side to a square of posterboard the length of a Q-tip. Make three other squares in the same way. Glue the tops of the Q-tips together to make a 3-dimensional square. This will serve as an example for 3-dimensional construction. Glue both these constructions to the inside of the kit container.

Kit Utilization: Younger children can experiment with 2-dimensional construction. Older children can experiment with making buildings, etc.

CONSTRUCTION (cont'd)

Paper Airplane Construction (K-6)

Materials:	Computer paper, scissors, paper clips, tape.
Kit Construction:	Package materials in container. Write the following directions for inclusion in the kit: "Crease paper on the center line, lengthwise. Fold in top corners to meet center. Fold in each side to center. Fold away from you on center line. Fold the edges of the paper towards you on each side of the center line. Tape the top. Use paper clips on the nose of the plane for weight if needed." Provide simple diagrams on direction sheet and also include a model airplane. Mark the airplane as an example.
Kit Utilization:	Allow the children to experiment with their own designs. You may want to specify that the plane be flown only outside.

DRAMATIC PLAY

Camp-Out Kit (K-6)

Materials:	Backpack, small camping stove, mess kit, First Aid kit, blanket, binoculars, etc.
Kit Construction:	Pack all materials into the backpack. Tape a small diagram inside the pack illustrating where each item goes.
Kit Utilization:	The diagram will allow practice in packing the backpack and also aid in clean-up. Have available a small desk, quiet space or cardboard tent (see Introduction).

Puppet Kit (K-6)

Materials:	Felt, puppet patterns, pre-cut felt puppet bodies and features, glue, scissors, pins, yarn.
Kit Construction:	Package pre-cut felt puppet bodies and features in a plastic bag or box. Label "Grades K-3". Include a pre-assembled puppet as an example. Package felt, puppet patterns and pins in another container and label "Grades 3-6". Attach the following directions to the second package: "Pin puppet body pattern to a piece of felt and cut out. Cut out the body again. Put glue along the edges of one body and place the other on top. Decide what kind of eyes, ears, etc. you want and cut them out. Glue on to puppet." Place both packages and additional materials in a container.
Kit Utilization:	Grades K-3 can use the example to figure out directions for assembly. Grades 3-6 can follow directions. The kit could be further adapted for the older grades by including a needle and thread for sewing the puppets together.

DRAMATIC PLAY (cont'd)

Carpenter's Kit (K-6)

Materials:	Tool box, soft wood scraps, nails with large heads, foam packaging material, glue, wood file, screws, screwdriver.
Kit Construction:	Package all materials in tool box. No specific directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	The younger children will require some previous instruction in the use of the tools.

Mystery Suitcase (K-6)

Materials:	Small suitcase or briefcase, items such as clothing, photographs, old tickets, train schedules, books, coins, maps, lists, etc.
Kit Construction:	Before assembling this kit, it would be useful for the teacher to have in mind a particular type of person. The kit can then be filled with items representing this person. Package all materials in the suitcase. For grades 3-6, tape the following directions to the inside of the suitcase: "What type of person would have this suitcase? Can you write a story or draw a picture about this person? Where might this person be going? Can you plan a trip for him or her?"
Kit Utilization:	Younger children may simply manipulate the materials. Older children could also do this or follow ideas on the direction sheet.

Make-Up Kit (K-6)

Materials:	Large make-up bag with mirror, small jars with white cold cream mixed with different colors of tempera paint, small paint brushes, tissues.
Kit Construction:	Package all materials in make-up bag. No directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	Allow children to experiment with face or body painting.

DRAMATIC PLAY (cont'd)

Army Kit (K-6)

Materials:	Kitty litter box with dirt or sand inside, plastic army men, small milk cartons, jeeps or tanks, scissors.
Kit Construction:	Package army men and scissors in Zip-loc bag. Place all materials in kitty litter pan which will serve as the container.
Kit Utilization:	Milk cartons can be used for building. By substituting water for sand and including navy men and boats this could be adapted to a Navy Kit. This kit can also be used outside.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

String Art (K-3)

Materials: 2 geoboards, pegs, rubber bands

Kit Construction: Place some pegs in one geoboard. Stretch some rubber bands around the pegs in a simple design. Mark this as an example. Package remaining pegs and rubber bands in Zip-loc bags. Include these materials, marked K-3, in the String Art 3-6 Kit.

Kit Utilization: Following example, the children can make designs of their choice.

String Art (3-6)

Materials: Wooden squares, small nails, hammer, colored string

Kit Construction: Hammer some nails into a wooden square. Wrap string around the nails to provide an example. Package small nails and colored string in Zip-loc bags. Package example and all materials in container. Include materials for K-3 adaptation.

Kit Utilization: Following example, children can make designs of their choice.

Sandpaper Art (K-6)

Materials: Coarse sandpaper, different colored yarn, crayons, scissors

Kit Construction: Cut some yarn of different lengths and place in a design on the sandpaper. Draw some designs on the sandpaper with crayons. These will provide examples and should be included in the kit. Package yarn and crayons in Zip-loc bags. Package all materials in container.

Kit Utilization: Allow the children to manipulate materials.

ARTS AND CRAFTS (cont'd)

Geo Art (K-6)

Materials:	Sheets of 12 x 18 manila paper, glue, different colors of construction paper.
Kit Construction:	Cut construction paper into geometric shapes in a variety of sizes and colors. Glue some of these onto manila paper in a design for use as an example. Package remaining shapes in a Zip-loc bag. Package all materials including example in container of choice.
Kit Utilization:	By following the example, children can create their own geometric designs.

Styrofoam and Toothpicks (K-6)

Materials:	Variety of styrofoam packing materials (peanuts, etc.), toothpicks, glue.
Kit Construction:	Make a 3-dimensional construction with toothpicks connecting styrofoam pieces for use as an example. Attach the example to the kit container. Package styrofoam pieces and toothpicks in small containers such as margarine tubs. Place all materials in suitable containers.
Kit Utilization:	Following the model, children can create atom-like structures. Some children may want to make their structures more permanent by putting glue on the ends of the toothpicks.

Finger Printing (K-6)

Materials:	Ink pad, paper, assorted rubber stamps, markers, crayons.
Kit Construction:	Package all materials in suitable container. No directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	Allow children to manipulate materials. Some children may wish to use their fingerprints and decorate them. You may facilitate this by providing markers or crayons.

ARTS AND CRAFTS (cont'd)

Clay Play (K-6)

Materials:	Variety of colors of playdough, rolling pin, or cylindrical block, cookie cutters, variety of other objects like nails, forks, etc.
Kit Construction:	Package each color of playdough in a margarine tub. Place cookie cutters and other objects in a Zip-loc bag. Package all materials in a suitable container. No directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	Allow the children to manipulate materials.

SCIENCE

Magnet Play (K-3)

Materials: Horseshoe magnet, paper clips, nails, assorted variety of other small objects.

Kit Construction: Place all materials in a small box or Zip-loc bag and label "K-3". Include in the Electric Magnet Kit.

Kit Utilization: No directions are necessary. Allow children to experiment with materials.

Electric Magnet (3-6)

Materials: Iron bolt approximately 2" long, spool of magnet wire #24, small pieces of fine sandpaper, paper clip nails, 1.5 volt dry cell battery, ruler, scissors.

Kit Construction: Combine all small materials and place in Zip-loc bag. Label bag and other material "Grades 3-6". Insert all materials in container of choice. Write the following directions: "Measure 6 yards of magnet wire and cut. Wrap the wire around the bolt leaving 12" free at beginning and end. Twist the two wires together near the bolt. Sand each wire 2" from the end so that copper shows through. Twist one wire around the post of the battery and the other around the 2nd post. Try picking up paper clips and other items." Include these directions in the kit.

Kit Utilization: Children use the packet of materials appropriate for their grade level. Grades 3-6 may read the directions and complete activity alone

SCIENCE (cont'd)

Simple Siphon (K-6)

Materials: 3' length of rubber tubing, 2 large jars or containers, one bucket.

Kit Construction: Place all materials inside bucket. Write up and simply illustrate the following directions: "Fill one jar with clear water and place it on a table. Put one end of the tubing inside this jar. Put the other jar on the floor. Suck the free end of the tube until you can just taste water. Place this end into the empty jar. What happens to the water? What happens if you put some water in the sink and try to make it come down the tube into the bucket?" Tape these directions to the outside of the bucket and cover with clear contact paper.

Kit Utilization: This activity is rather hard to diagram. Younger children may need a brief demonstration.

A Simple Electric Circuit (K-6)

Materials: 2 flashlight batteries, a flashlight bulb, 10" x 5" pieces of aluminum foil, tape, scissors.

Kit Construction: Package all materials in a container of choice. Write directions for the kit as follows: "Fold a piece of aluminum foil repeatedly until you have a strip. Place part of the foil strip under the battery. Hold the bulb on the bump on top of the battery. Bring the loose end of the foil strip up to touch the metal of the bulb. The bulb will light. Try taping two batteries together. What happens to the bulb?" For Grades K-3, simple diagrams will be needed to explain the directions.

Kit Utilization: By following the graphic or written directions, the child will be able to complete the activity. Total manipulation of materials can be encouraged since the small electrical charge generated is completely harmless.

SCIENCE (cont'd)

Static Balloon (K-6)

Materials:	Balloons, pieces of fur, wool or nylon stockings, tiny pieces of tissue paper, plastic sandwich bags.
Kit Construction:	Package each of the above materials in a separate Zip-loc bag. Package all of the Zip-loc bags in a container. Write the directions for the kit as follows: "Blow up the balloon and tie it. Rub the balloon with a piece of fur or wool. Press the balloon against the wall. What happens? Rub the balloon again and hold it over someone's hair. What happens? Rub again and hold the balloon over the bits of tissue paper. Now take out a plastic bag and hold it by the closed end. Rub both sides with the fur. What happens to the bag?" Illustrate these directions with simple diagrams for the younger children.
Kit Utilization:	The reasons these experiments work are as follows: Rubbing the balloon or bag with the fur imparts an electrical charge. Charged and uncharged objects attract each other. Two similarly charged objects repel each other.

Mixtures (K-6)

Materials:	Variety of small bowls, containers, etc. for mixing, plastic spoons, covered jars containing vegetable oil, vinegar, water, baking soda, cornstarch, flour, salt.
Kit Construction:	Package all items in a container. No directions are necessary.
Kit Utilization:	Allow children to manipulate materials as they wish. They will observe certain chemical reactions and note that some substances will dissolve easily while others will not. Since this activity can be messy, it is a good idea to specify the place where it can occur and also decide upon clean-up arrangements before using the kit.

SCIENCE (cont'd)

Mirror Magic (K-6)

Materials: Several small mirrors, pad of paper, pens or pencils.

Kit Construction: Package all materials in small container. Write up and simply illustrate the following directions for inclusion in the kit: "Stand in front of a window with the mirror in your hand. Move the mirror slowly until the light hits it and is reflected onto something in the room. Can you change the place the light hits by moving the mirror? Now stand the mirror on the table, by leaning it against a book. Put a piece of paper in front of the mirror. Look in the mirror and try to write your name. You will see that your writing is backward. Now try with a drawing." An example of mirror writing might be a helpful thing to include in the kit.

Kit Utilization: Following the pictures or written directions, the children should be able to complete the experiment alone. If the mirrors have unfinished edges, it is a good idea to cover the edges with masking tape.

SMALL MUSCLE/INDOOR GAMES

Cylinder Ball Game (K-6)

Materials: Small plastic bucket with handle, nerf-type ball or rolled-up socks.

Kit Construction: Cut the bottom out of the bucket. Package all items in a container. Insert a nail in the wall at a height above the tallest child.

Kit Utilization: Hang the bucket on the nail. Allow the child to shoot the ball into the bucket.

Vietnamese Pick-Up Sticks (K-6)

Materials: Ten chopsticks or popsicle sticks, a small ball with good bounce.

Kit Construction: Write up the following directions with diagrams for inclusion in the kit: "Lay out sticks in a straight line. Throw the ball in the air, pick up one stick and catch the ball in the same hand after letting it bounce once. Repeat until all sticks have been picked up (like Jacks)." Package all materials in a container.

Kit Utilization: Children look at or read directions and complete activity.

Felt Board (K-6)

Materials: 12 x 12 squares of black felt, 12 x 12 squares of heavy cardboard, masking tape or stapler, variety of colored felt remnants, scissors, glue.

Kit Construction: To make a model, attach black felt to cardboard square using either tape or stapler. Cut out a variety of small shapes from felt remnants and place on felt board. Package felt remnants in manila envelope or similar container. Package all materials, including prepared example, in a container.

Kit Utilization: Following the example, children may prepare their own felt board and cut out felt shapes of their choice. Older children may want to make their's more permanent, in which case provide glue.

SMALL MUSCLE/INDOOR GAMES (cont'd)

Hardware Board (K-6)

Materials:	A variety of packaged hardware latches and fasteners such as a door chain, dead bolt lock, door latch, etc., a piece of pine or other soft wood approximately 2½' x 1½', screwdriver.
Kit Construction:	Attach all hardware to the board in an appealing arrangement. Older children can help with this construction.
Kit Utilization:	Allow the children to experiment with the materials.

Puzzle Eggs (K-6)

Materials:	Basket, L'eggs eggs, 3 x 5 index cards, 3 x 5 magazine pictures and/or Tangram patterns, glue, scissors, marker, contact paper.
Kit Construction:	Cut out magazine pictures and glue them to the index cards. Cut each card into several puzzle pieces. Give each puzzle a number and put the correct number on the corresponding puzzle pieces. Package each puzzle in a separate L'eggs egg. Mark the eggs with the puzzle number. Place all the eggs in the basket.
Kit Utilization:	Children can pick an egg and put the puzzle together. Older children can make their own puzzles from their drawings or from Tangram patterns, in which case include the necessary materials and directions.

SMALL MUSCLE/INDOOR GAMES (cont'd)

Sand Pouring (K-6)

Materials:	Kitty litter pan, sand, approximately eight identical cans, hammer, nails (one small, one large).
Kit Construction:	Using the nails, punch a variety of holes in the cans in different placements and patterns. For example, Can #1 could have 1 large hole punched in the bottom. Can #2 could have 4 holes punched in the side of the can. Package sand and cans in kitty litter pan.
Kit Utilization:	Children may fill cans with sand and make designs in kitty litter pan or simply manipulate materials. This activity could be adapted to water play, in which case you may want to include funnels, plastic tubing, medicine droppers, etc.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Kitchen Music (K-6)

Materials: Eight water glasses, spoon, plastic pitcher.

Kit Construction: Write up and illustrate the following directions: "Set all the glasses in a row on the table. Fill the pitcher with water. Pour a little water into the 1st glass, a little more into the 2nd glass and so on until the last glass is almost full. Gently tap the glasses with the spoon and make your own kitchen music." Package all materials, including directions, in a container.

Kit Utilization: Children may follow directions and make their own music.

Sound Box (K-6)

Materials: Any available toy musical instruments, coffee cans for drums, pot lids for cymbals, metal band-aid box filled with rice for maracas, 2 aluminum pie pans stapled together for a tamborine, etc.

Kit Construction: Place all items in a container related to music, such as an old guitar case or drum.

Kit Utilization: Allow children to create their own sounds.

Clap in Time (K-6)

Materials: Cassette recorder and cassette tape, coffee can drum.

Kit Construction: Start the tape with the following passage: "Listen to the clapping and try to copy it on the drum." Record simple clapping rhythms on tape. Allow time after each pattern for children to repeat. Package in appropriate container.

Kit Utilization: Children may listen to the tape and repeat the clapping rhythm on the drum. Some previous instruction in the use of the recorder may be necessary.

Rubber Band Strummer (K-6)

Materials: Variety of rubber bands in different sizes and thicknesses, plastic drawer organizer approximately 6" x 9", guitar pick.

Kit Construction: Wrap rubber bands around plastic drawer organizer beginning with thickest and ending with thinnest band. Place pick and all remaining rubber bands in Zip-loc bag. Package all materials in an appropriate container.

Kit Utilization: Children may strum rubber bands to create their own music. They may also experiment with adding or removing rubber bands to create different sounds.

Shake a Sound (K-6)

Materials: An even number of 35 mm metal film cans (6 or 8), several noisy ingredients such as paper clips, nails, buttons, seeds, pebbles, marbles, etc.

Kit Construction: Fill the metal film cans with various noisy ingredients. Make sure there are two containers of each ingredient and then tape or glue the container shut. You may want to spray-paint them all the same bright color so they will be appealing. Package all film cans in an appropriate container.

Kit Utilization: Children may "shake a sound".

You Should Be Dancing (K-6)

Materials:	Five poster board squares approximately 12" x 12", marker, record player, ballet record.
Kit Construction:	On each of the squares of poster board draw one of the five ballet positions. (See page 16 or 17 in First Steps in Ballet in bibliography.) Package in container along with record and include the following directions in kit: "Place the squares on the floor. Put on the record. Practice putting your feet on the patterns on the squares." Practice in use of the record player may be necessary for younger children.
Kit Utilization:	Allow children to utilize materials. Older children may want to make up their own steps for disco dances.

LANGUAGE

Personal Word Find Kit (K-6)

Materials: Copies of teacher-designed word finds, pencils, 8½" x 11" envelopes.

Kit Construction: Design, on ditto masters, two simple word finds for grades K-3 and two more complex ones for grades 3-6. Make them personal by including a variety of the children's names, favorite rock stars, etc. Run off copies. Provide an envelope for copies of each different word find and enclose a pencil and label with grade level.

Kit Utilization: Children look for an envelope with their grade level and take out one copy and the pencil. They may begin.

Comic Strip Sequencing (K-6)

Materials: Variety of comic strips, poster board, clear contact paper, glue, scissors.

Kit Construction: Glue comic strips to poster board and cover with clear contact paper. Cut each comic strip frame apart. Be sure to include comics with words and those with only pictures for the non-readers. Package each set of comic strip frames in Zip-loc bags, envelopes or boxes. Label each set for either "Grades K-3" or "Grades 3-6". Package all sets in a container. No directions are necessary.

Kit Utilization: Children may find a comic strip set suitable for their grade level, examine or read the frames and sequence into story order.

Typewriter Play (K-6)

Materials: Portable typewriter, paper, white-out.

Kit Construction: Package all materials in the typewriter case if possible. Some previous instruction in the care and use of the typewriter might be necessary.

Kit Utilization: Allow children to examine and manipulate materials.

LANGUAGE (cont'd)

Make Your Own Dittos (K-6)

Materials: Blank ditto masters, copies of a variety of word games from simple to complex, tape, pens.

Kit Construction: Place a copy of a word game on top of a ditto master and tape together. Write over some words in a contrasting colored pen to demonstrate transferring to ditto master. This will provide a model. Package the model and all materials in a suitable container.

Kit Utilization: Following the model, the children can make their own dittos. A time, possibly once a week, could be set aside to allow the children to run off their own dittos under teacher supervision.

Sentence Puzzles (K-6)

Materials: Poster board, clear contact paper, black marker, business-size envelopes.

Kit Construction: Write several sentences on poster board. Cover with clear contact paper. Cut the sentences apart and, within each sentence, cut the words apart. Place all the words from one sentence in an envelope. Mark all envelopes "Grades 3-6". For the non-readers, the alphabet may be written on poster board, covered with contact paper and cut apart. Place the letters in an envelope and label "Grades K-3". Place all envelopes in a suitable kit container.

Kit Utilization: Older children may attempt to sequence their words into sentence format. Younger children may sequence the alphabet or make simple words.

Sign Language Kit (K-6)

Materials: 5 copies finger-spelled alphabet (p.14 in Good Times by Marilyn Burrows), 1 copy of word pictures (p.15 in Good Times), poster board, glue, clear contact paper, scissors, ruler, 2 large margarine tubs (or similar containers).

Kit Construction: Cut out the complete alphabet on all five copies. Glue 3 copies to poster board and cover with clear contact paper. Leave one copy complete. Cut the letters apart on the other two copies. Package in margarine tub and label "Spell a Word". Cut out 52 3" x 4" poster board rectangles. Cut the letters apart on the two remaining copies. Glue one letter square in the middle of each 3" x 4" rectangle. Cover with clear contact paper. When finished, you will have a pack of 52 cards with two alphabets. Package in margarine tub and label "Concentration". Cut out the word pictures on page 15, leaving the sheet whole. Glue onto poster board and cover with clear contact paper. Package all materials in a suitable container.

Kit Utilization: Children may use the complete alphabet and word picture sheets to teach themselves finger spelling. The small cards, in the tub labeled "Spell a Word", can be used for spelling names, words or sequencing the alphabet. The 3" x 4" cards can be used in matching games similar to "Concentration".

FOOD RELATED EXPERIENCES

Measuring (K-6)

Materials: Graduated measuring cups, measuring spoons, sifter, scale, kitty litter pan, corn meal, small margarine tub.

Kit Construction: Place corn meal in kitty litter pan. Place all small materials in Zip-loc bags. Package all materials in kitty litter pan. If a scale is not available, make one according to directions on page 59 in Recyclopedia (see bibliography). On small paper rectangles write up several questions such as: "How much do 2 cups of corn meal weigh?" "How much do 2 cups of water weigh?" Place all questions in margarine tub and label "Grades 3-6".

Kit Utilization: Grades K-3 may simply manipulate materials. Older children may use the questions to guide their activities. You may want to add more substances as the children become familiar with this kit.

Bean Sandwich (K-6)

Materials: Small glass jars with lids, variety of dry beans and noodles, large margarine tubs or similar containers.

Kit Construction: Package the different types of beans and noodles in separate margarine tubs. Layer some beans and noodles in a glass jar (in a pleasing design). This will provide an example. Package all materials in kit container.

Kit Utilization: Following example, children can complete activity.

Bubble-Gum Fun (K-6)

Materials: Sugarless bubble gum, 6" x 6" squares of wax paper, paper, black marker.

Kit Construction: Provide a series of simple diagrams illustrating chewing the gum, blowing bubbles, modeling with chewed gum, and stretching gum on waxed paper in designs. Package gum and waxed paper in suitable container and glue diagram sheet to inside of container.

Kit Utilization: Following diagrams, the children can manipulate materials.

FOOD RELATED EXPERIENCES (cont'd)

Edible Clay (K-6)

Materials:	Peanut butter, dry milk, 2 large margarine tubs, 1 tablespoon, small mixing bowl, wax paper.
Kit Construction:	Put peanut butter in one margarine tub and dry milk in another. Draw a simple diagram demonstrating that 4 tablespoons of peanut butter and 4 tablespoons of dry milk should be placed in mixing bowl and mixed with hands. Package all materials, including diagram, in a suitable container.
Kit Utilization:	Allow children to manipulate materials. The wax paper can provide a surface on which to place "clay" construction.

Macaroni Match (K-6)

Materials:	Variety of different shapes of macaroni, glue, 24" lengths of string, poster board, black marker, contact paper.
Kit Construction:	Cut poster board into several 1" x 4" cards. On cards, draw different types of macaroni strung in various sequences. Package macaroni in margarine tubs or similar containers. Dip one end of each length of string in glue, let dry, and package string in Zip-loc bag. Place macaroni, string and cards in a container.
Kit Utilization:	Children may try to string macaroni by matching the sequences shown on the cards or design their own. You may want to include blank cards and a marker to allow older children to design their own sequences.

Cereal Taste Test (K-6)

Materials: Variety of different kinds of cereals, Zip-loc bags or similar containers, 9" x 12" poster board, marker, glue.

Kit Construction: Write up the following directions: "Taste each cereal. Glue a piece of the cereal you like best on the chart. Then glue on a piece of the cereal you liked second best and so on, until the chart is finished. Write your name in the space at the end." Provide simple diagrams for the non-readers.
Divide poster board into 5 columns widthwise. Then draw lines lengthwise one inch apart, creating approximately 2½" x 1" squares. Label the columns: "Best", "Good", "Okay", "Yuk!" and "Name". These can be diagrammed with smiling to frowning faces. Package cereals in Zip-loc bags. Place chart, glue, directions and cereal bags in appropriate container.

Kit Utilization: Children may read directions and complete activity. It may be a good idea to stay away from the "junkier" cereals and use this activity to provide exposure to more unusual cereals.

APPENDIX

Container Ideas for Kits

Ideas for Creating Private Spaces to Facilitate Solitary Play

Kit Evaluation - a Tool for Evaluating the Success of Each Kit

Commercially Available Toys and Games: Items Designed for Solitary Play

Bibliography

CONTAINER IDEAS FOR KITS

Backpack
Jars
Pots
Buckets
Recycled plastic containers
Kitty litter pans
Milk crates
Pitcher
Mixing bowls
Spice rack
Cigar boxes
Baking pans
Drum
Guitar case
Art portfolio
Tackle box
Art totes
Tool boxes
Plastic flower pots
Briefcase
Small suitcase
Make-up bag
Egg carton
Drawstring bags

IDEAS FOR CREATING PRIVATE SPACES

- Tents
- Tables
- Coat closet
- Old bathtub
- Carpet squares
- Steamer trunk
- Large pillows
- Large refrigerator boxes
- Desks
- Child - height shelf
- Cots
- Blanket
- Toy box
- Bean bag chairs

KIT EVALUATION FORM

This evaluation form can be used by the teachers in their centers to determine the value of specific kits. After completing this form, the teacher can use the information to make adjustments in the kit that will increase the quality and quantity of participation.

1. In the course of one week, how many children used the kit?

   1 - 2 _____

   3 - 4 _____

   5 - 6 _____

   6 or more _____

2. What type of participation was observed most frequently?

   Brief interest _____

   Some manipulation of materials _____

   Partial completion of activity _____

   Total involvement with activity _____

3. What problems were observed?

   Accessibility of materials _____

   Degree of difficulty _____

   Other _____

   _____

4. What types of adjustments are necessary for the kit?

   Packaging changes _____

   Activity changes _____

   Additional directions _____

   Simpler directions _____

   Other _____

   _____

COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE TOYS AND GAMES

Airplane
Anti-Coloring Book
Bicycle
Big Wheel
Books
Bristle Blocks
Bubbles
Build-Up - Magnetic Building Game
Cards- Solitaire
Cassettes
Chinese Jacks
Darts - safe type
Dominos
Eight Ball
Electronic Games
Etch-a-Sketch
Hoola Hoop
Jacks
Jump Rope - single
Kaleidoscope
Kite
Leggos
Loc-Blocks
Loom and Loops
Magnetic Drawing Set
Marbles
Models
Movie Viewer and Movies
New Skedoodle
Paddle Ball Game
Pick-up Sticks
Play Dough
Pogo Stick
Puzzles
Record Books
Ring Toss
Roller Skates
Rubix Cube
Silly Putty
Slinky
Spirograph
Stilts
Tennis Racket and Ball
Tinker Toys
Wagon
Wee Wonderful Waterfuls
Yo Yo

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